



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

MARCH 22.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

The death of Jos. A. Clay, a member, was announced.

MARCH 29.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty persons present.

APRIL 5.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirteen persons present.

The deaths of John Gould, of London, a correspondent, and of Thos. W. Starr, a member, were announced.

APRIL 12.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

The death of Col. T. M. Bryan, of Vincenttown, N. J., a correspondent, was announced.

APRIL 19.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty persons present.

A paper entitled "Observations on Planorbis," by R. E. C. Stearns, was presented for publication.

On the Variations of Acmaea pelta, Escholtz.—Mr. TRYON read a portion of a letter from Mr. Henry Hemphill, of Oakland, California, referring to certain specimens of *Acmaea*, collected by him, and presented to the Academy this evening.

"I will now call your attention to Nos. 457, 458, 459 and 460. I have made two trips to Monterey, Cal., this winter. During my

first visit I collected a few specimens of *Acmæa pelta* and its vars., and when I returned home and began to clean the specimens I was very much puzzled over some specimens of No. 458. Several years ago I had collected shells of No. 459 at Monterey, which at that time I called *Nacella instabilis*, but these half and half varieties did not appear at that time. After a little reflection on the matter, I began to suspect the true condition of the subject and became so much interested in it, that I concluded to go to Monterey again and try to work it up, and I think I have done so. It is simply a question of station.

"When the young of *A. pelta* stations itself on the kelp (*Phyllospora Menziesii*, Ag.), it assumes the aspect of *Nacella*, and as long as it remains on the kelp it does not change its color in the least, and only varies its form to suit the shape of the stems of the kelp to which it attaches itself. But when from any cause it leaves the kelp and takes to the rocks, it seems to begin immediately to paint up and ornament itself after the fashion of the specimens I have sent you.

"When it remains on the kelp a long time and completes its growth, we then have *Nacella instabilis*, and if living in an exposed position its apex becomes worn, the sculpture faint, etc. When the young station themselves on the rocks they do not assume the *Nacella* aspect at all, but commence immediately to adorn themselves in gay and beautiful colors as you will see by the fine series of No. 457. Now for the facts and reasons why I came to this conclusion. I collected about 200 living specimens on the kelp in all stages of growth, and out of the 200 I found but two specimens that varied their color at all; one was a very young and small specimen, with a few light dots on or near the apex, and the other was a large specimen with a tessellated border on the inside. I also collected about 200 on the rocks, and every one was more or less variegated with either the square dots or alternate rays of white and black, while those that had evidently been on the kelp had their tessellated borders well advanced. We must also take into consideration the fact that Monterey is the most southern point at which *Nacella instabilis* has been found, and it is quoted by Dall as rare there. The water of the bay where these half and half No. 458 are found, and also others, is comparatively smooth to what it is on the outside where the typical *Nacella* is found, which will account for the preservation of the apex and sculpture and may have something to do with the form, and undoubtedly is the cause why it is rare at Monterey.

"To show the effect of station, with probably other causes, I send you a full series of a very pretty var. of *A. pelta* from Olympia, Puget Sound, W. T., 461 to 466 inclusive, that I collected last summer. Station, on *Mytilus edulis*.

"This very pretty var has almost the exact form and looks like a huge *Nacella peltoides*, Dall, and is a very interesting addition to our limpets."